THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Regulatory evaluation of safety and efficacy of new drugs is undertaken on the basis of results of various phases of clinical trials' data conducted by firms/organizations engaged in new drug discovery research. The data also includes the information on adverse drug reactions (ADR). There is no specific complaint about firms/organizations in India not disclosing negative results found during clinical trials. The norms for clinical trials for approval of new drugs have been prescribed under Schedule-Y of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, which include requirements of data including any adverse reaction to be submitted by the sponsors. These clinical trials including reports submitted by Custom Research Organisations (CROs) are examined by a panel of experts.

(d) and (e) CROs are engaged in various kinds of research development activities. At present there is no proposal to set up a separate regulatory agency to monitor the activities of CROs.

Setting up of Regional Science Centre

2331. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Science Centres set up in various States in the country;

(b) the criteria for the setting up of such centres; and

(c) the details of Government policy, if any, to set up more such centres in North-Eastern States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) There are 9 Regional Science Centres set up in various States of the country.

(b) These centres are established by the Ministry of Culture on the basis of proposals of the State Governments. The State Governments provide developed land free of cost and should fund 50% of the capital expenditure. Sub Regional Science Centres in North-Eastern States are set up with capital outlays of Rs. 2 crores of which the Ministry of Culture would provide 90% through National Council of Science Museums and balance 10% has to be provided by the concerned Government in addition to developed land free of cost.

(c) In North-Eastern States, the Government has set up a Regional Science Centre at Guwahati (Assam). Three more Sub-Regional Science Centres, one each in Agartala (Tripura), Dimapur (Nagaland) and Aizwal (Mizoram) have already been set up. In addition, three more Sub-Regional Science Centres, one at Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), one at Shillong (Meghalaya) and one at Imphal (Manipur) are in the developing stage. Work for setting up a Sub-Regional Science Centre at Gangtok (Sikkim) is also about to start. Therefore, all the States in the North-East have been covered.

Strengthening of bio-technology industry

2332. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite several strengths inherent, our country's bio-technology industry is not able to take a quantum jump mainly due to lack of capital investment and low-spending, R&D etc.;

(b) the steps his Ministry is taking in the area of bio-informatics which is crucial for advancement of bio-technology in the country; and

(c) the investment made in bio-technology during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No. Sir. The biotech industry has been exponentially growing in the last decade with 75% growth in the last three years, as per the information from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Concerted measures have been taken to increase the investment in the bio-technology both from public and private sectors. These include establishment of bio-technology parks, incubators and new institutional structures by the Centre and State Governments and financial institutions etc. The Government for the promotion of biotech industry has taken several measures. As public-private partnership initiatives, the Government of India in the Ministry of Science and Technology has established Technology Development Board (TDB), Pharmaceutical Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) and Home Grown Technology (HGT) under the Department of Science and Technology and New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) Schemes under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), for providing soft loans to the entrepreneurs. However there is a strong felt need in the